

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077400
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 H-01 INSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00
/061 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:AHWITT
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:AHWITT
ARA:GLISTER (BY PHONE)
HA:MBOVA (BY PHONE)
-----128178 250827Z /14
R 250008Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: DR, SHUM

SUBJECT: ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTORAL VIOLATIONS

1. ON MARCH 24 TWO PRD REPS RESIDENT IN THE US, MIGUEL ABUD, INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PRD, AND MRS. MARIA CASTILLO VISITED THE DEPT, ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF CONGRESSMAN DONALD FRASER. THE PRD REPS MET WITH GEORGE LISTER, ARA HUMAN RIGHTS COORDINATOR; ASHLEY HEWITT, DIRECTOR, ARA/CAR; AND MICHELE BOVA, OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY PAINTED A PICTURE OF DELIBERATE REPRESSION OF THE PRD BY THE BALAGUER GOVERNMENT AND THE ARMED FORCES AND CITED A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTORAL VIOLATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY CLAIMED THAT TWO PRD LEADERS HAD BEEN MURDERED IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, ONE IN JANUARY AND A SECOND IN FEBRUARY. ONE OF THESE MURDERS SUPPOSEDLY TOOK PLACE DURING AN ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF JOSE FRANCISCO
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PENA GOMEZ, WHICH MISFIRED DUE TO A LAST MINUTE CHANGE IN PLANS BY THE PRD LEADER. THEY RECOUNTED A REPORT THAT SOME MILITARY OFFICERS HAD BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO KILL PENA GOMEZ.

2. THE PRD REPS ALSO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROHIBITED MARCHES AND MASS MEETINGS PLANNED BY THE PRD IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT VISIT OF PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER MARIO

SOARES, AND THAT THE LINE OF MARCH HAD BEEN HARRASSED UNMERCIFULLY BY THE POLICE IN THE COURSE OF THOSE DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PERMITTED. THEY REPORTED THAT 100 PRD

YOUTHS HAD BEEN DETAINED DURING THE DEMONSTRATIONS ALLEGEDLY FOR BREAKING UP AN OFFICE OF THE CRUZADA DE AMOR, AN ACT ACTUALLY COMMITTED BY OTHERS; AND THAT THESE YOUTHS WERE IN EFFECT BEING HELD FOR RANSOM BY THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD SET AN EXTREMELY HIGH BAIL FOR THEIR RELEASE.

3. THEY ALSO REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ISSUED 15 THOUSAND FALSE IDENTITY CARDS, AND THAT IDENTITY CARDS WERE BEING ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, THEREBY PERMITTING THEM TO VOTE IN VIOLATION OF THE DOMINICAN CONSTITUTION. THEY ALSO CLAIMED THAT PENA GOMEZ HAD BEEN DETAINED AND QUESTIONED BY INS WHILE TRANSITING NEW YORK ON THE WAY BACK FROM A TRIP TO EUROPE LAST YEAR.

4. PRD REPS STATED THAT THERE WAS "A PERVASIVE BELIEF" IN DR THAT USG SUPPORTED BALAGUER AND DR AND CITED A REPORT THAT PENA GOMEZ HAD BEEN DETAINED AND QUESTIONED IN NEW YORK BY INS AS HE TRANSITED US ON THE WAY BACK TO THE DR FROM EUROPE AS EVIDENCE OF USG ATTITUDE. THEY URGED NEW, HIGH LEVEL STATEMENTS OF USG NEUTRALITY.

5. ANY INFORMATION THE EMBASSY MAY HAVE ON THESE REPORTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS WELL AS EMBASSY COMMENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, CORRUPTION, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE077400
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AHEWITT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780131-1066
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780325/aaaaauri.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7ea9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3202988
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS AND ELECTORAL VIOLATIONS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PGOV, DR
To: SANTO DOMINGO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7ea9adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014